

**VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

**REPORT NUMBER: IA-14-009**

**PERIOD COVERED:** April 22, 2014  
**DATE REPORTED:** April 23, 2014  
**SUBJECT(S) NAME:** Deputy Brian Hazen #7441  
**INVESTIGATING OFFICERS:** Investigator Glen Bennett #1452

**BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:**

On April 22, 2014, Deputy Brian Hazen was involved in an off duty battery incident at 3863 Nova Road, Port Orange, FL. The incident started as an allegation that Deputy Hazen was making an improper lane change while trying to merge to enter Dunlawton Square Plaza in Port Orange. According to the police report and witness statements; the aggrieved 17 year old female driver, identified as Hannah Carlson honked her horn and tailgated Deputy Hazen as they both entered the plaza. While parked in the plaza, Deputy Hazen exited his personally owned vehicle, approached Ms. Carlson's vehicle and identified himself as a deputy sheriff by presenting his badge and identification. As Ms. Carlson pulled away the other female occupants of her vehicle reportedly began to spit in the direction of Deputy Hazen and his female passenger, Dr. Regina Gresham.

Deputy Hazen returned to his vehicle, dropped off Dr. Gresham in front of Salsa's Mexican Restaurant (Salsa's) then went on to park in the south end of the plaza. Deputy Hazen walked to Salsa's to join his party awaiting a table outside the restaurant. Dr. Gresham took receipt of a large package from a friend at Salsa's and Deputy Hazen took the package to his truck so not to be in the way while eating with friends. Minutes later, Ms. Carlson and Adriana Mendoza approached Deputy Hazen as he stood by his vehicle and began taking photographs. Deputy Hazen supposedly told the females to leave him alone or he was calling the police. As Deputy Hazen began walking north towards Salsa's, the two females followed closely behind as the three exchanged words. Ms. Carlson reportedly pushed or struck Deputy Hazen in his left upper body and he turned and struck Ms. Carlson in the face with a closed fist causing injury.

The Port Orange Police Department (POPD) was contacted by witnesses and Deputy Hazen via 911. Officers, along with a shift supervisor responded and conducted an investigation. Ms. Carlson signed an Affidavit of Prosecution form and Deputy Hazen advised the investigating officer that he did not wish to prosecute and signed a Refusal to Prosecute form. The investigating officer determined, based on his investigation and the discrepancies in the witness statements, that Ms. Carlson initiated the physical

confrontation by striking Deputy Hazen before he struck her. Neither person was charged in reference to the incident.

The following day, April 23, 2014, Deputy Hazen contacted POPD and he completed a Voluntary Witness Statement along with an Affidavit of Prosecution. *(See Tab – D For Police Report and Written Statements)*

#### **OFFENSES:**

This investigation is relevant to an alleged violation of Department Standards Directive:

**Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (13).** Any conduct, on or off duty that reflects unfavorably on the County as an employer. *This violation may be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action ranging from oral reprimand to dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the offense and other circumstances related to the situation.*

#### **INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY:**

On April 23, 2014, Chief Deputy Mike Coffin assigned the above incident to the Internal Affairs Unit. This report details the internal affairs investigation conducted by Investigator Glen Bennett.

On April 24, 2014, Investigators Glen Bennett and James Gabriel made contact with Port Orange Police Detective George Oliveira, who was assigned the investigation. Investigators Bennett and Gabriel along with Detective Oliveira canvassed the area around Dunlawton Square Plaza for surveillance video and witnesses.

Space Coast Credit Union (SCCU) had the only security video which contained a portion of the incident involving Deputy Hazen. Still photographs of the security video were taken while on scene. One photograph, time stamped at 18:17:38, shows Deputy Hazen walking south, alone in the direction of where his vehicle was reported to have been parked. He is holding what appears to be some type of package in his arms. At 18:18:18, two girls identified as Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza are seen walking in the same southerly direction towards Deputy Hazen's location. At 18:19:53, Deputy Hazen is seen walking north in the direction of Salsa's not carrying the package with Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza approximately two steps behind. The security video contradicts the statements written by both Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza as to Deputy Hazen following them as they claimed to be walking away from him. *(See Tab – O For Photographs)*

Ms. Carlson wrote in her sworn statement to POPD, after the verbal confrontation at Deputy Hazen's truck, *"We [Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza] started walking away and he [Deputy Hazen] followed still screaming."* Ms. Mendoza wrote in her statement, *"He [Deputy Hazen] got mad, cussed, slut, whore and followed us [Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza]."*

Detective Oliveira, as part of his investigation, prepared a subpoena to obtain the security video in its entirety from SCCU. Detective Oliveira conducted interviews at the POPD headquarters of all known witnesses. Recordings of those interviews were provided to Investigator Bennett for his investigation as they were completed. *(See Tab – P For Security Video)*

Investigator Bennett served Deputy Hazen with a Notice of Internal Investigation and a copy of the Law Enforcement Officer's Rights in the Kohl's parking lot located within Westport Square Shopping Plaza in Port Orange. *(See Tab – B For Official Correspondence)*

### **Suzanne Sattler**

On April 24, 2014, Detective Oliveira conducted a sworn recorded video interview with Suzanne Sattler at the Port Orange Police Department. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Sattler was with her friend, Sandra DiNitto, as the two walked from their car to Salsa's Mexican Restaurant (Salsa's) to have dinner. Ms. Sattler was behind Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza who were walking closely behind Deputy Hazen. Ms. Carlson and Deputy Hazen were exchanging words when she heard Deputy Hazen raise his voice at Ms. Carlson. Ms. Carlson responded, *"You can't say that to me,"* and then shoved Deputy Hazen with her hands in the left shoulder area. At that point Deputy Hazen turned and struck Ms. Carlson in the face. Ms. Carlson turned around towards Ms. Sattler as she held her bloody mouth.

Ms. Sattler described Deputy Hazen as being very angry. A man in front of Salsa's, later identified as Peter Ferreira, yelled to Deputy Hazen that you cannot hit a girl. Deputy Hazen yelled back that she hit him first. Ms. Sattler continued to walk with her friend towards Salsa's, as to avoid any trouble and waited for the police to arrive. Ms. Sattler stated that Deputy Hazen being struck by Ms. Carlson did not warrant him hitting her in the face. *(See Tab – F For Official Transcript)*

### **Sandra DiNitto**

On April 24, 2014, Detective Oliveira conducted a sworn recorded video interview with Sandra DiNitto at the Port Orange Police Department. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. DiNitto was walking with Ms. Sattler towards Salsa's Mexican Restaurant (Salsa's) behind Ms. Carlson, Ms. Mendoza and Deputy Hazen. She could not recall what was being said at first; however, Deputy Hazen appeared to be getting very angry as he began using profanity. Ms. Carlson struck Deputy Hazen but she could not recall how or exactly where on Deputy Hazen's body she made contact. After being struck, Deputy

Hazen turned and punched Ms. Carlson in the face and began yelling, "*You don't hit me, you don't hit me.*"

Ms. DiNitto kept on walking towards Salsa's as Deputy Hazen stayed behind. A man later identified as, Peter Ferreira, confronted Deputy Hazen telling him he should not hit the girl. Deputy Hazen replied back to Mr. Ferreira that she hit him first. (*See Tab – I For Official Transcript*)

### **Peter Ferreira**

On April 24, 2014, Detective Oliveira conducted a sworn recorded video interview with Peter Ferreira at the Port Orange Police Department. The following is a summary of that interview:

Mr. Ferreira was outside Salsa's Mexican Restaurant (Salsa's) with a friend waiting for a table when he noticed two girls, Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza, walking towards the south end of the parking lot. A short time later he observed Deputy Hazen, Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza about sixty feet away walking north towards Salsa's in what appeared to be a heated conversation.

At one point Ms. Carlson slapped Deputy Hazen on his left shoulder with an open hand. Deputy Hazen turned to his left and told her to stop hitting him and then struck her in the face with his right fist. Mr. Ferreira began to walk down to see what was going on and he saw Ms. Carlson holding her bloody mouth. Mr. Ferreira told Deputy Hazen that he was going to call the police and to not leave the area. Deputy Hazen advised Mr. Ferreira that he was also calling the police. (*See Tab – H For Official Transcript*)

### **Pamela Fuit**

On April 25, 2014, Detective Oliveira conducted a sworn recorded video interview with Pamela Fuit at the Port Orange Police Department. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Fuit was dropped off by her husband in the parking lot of Dunlawton Square Plaza near Salsa's Mexican Restaurant (Salsa's) to go and reserve a table while her husband parked the car. As Ms. Fuit walked towards Salsa's she saw a black truck, driven by Deputy Hazen, and a small car, driven by Ms. Carlson entering the parking lot. Ms. Fuit heard the car's horn and young girls laughing inside. As the truck stopped, with the car directly behind, Deputy Hazen got out holding what she thought was either a law enforcement badge or cell phone. Deputy Hazen was heard telling the girls, "*Do you want to keep riding my ass?*" as he presented what she now believed was a law enforcement badge based on the manner he was holding the object.

Deputy Hazen got back into his truck, dropped off his girlfriend, Dr. Gresham, in front of Salsa's and proceeded to park his truck. As Deputy Hazen parked his truck and walked back towards Salsa's, it did not appear to her as if Deputy Hazen was looking for the girls that were in the car.

Ms. Fuit entered Salsa's for a brief moment when Deputy Hazen walked away with a package which he appeared to receive from friends he met. When she came back outside the restaurant she heard a girl yelling, "You hit my sister," and she looked and saw another girl holding her mouth. At that point she said Deputy Hazen was by himself as everyone outside the restaurant began calling the police. Ms. Fuit said everyone was concerned based on the fact that a girl was struck in the mouth by a man; however, she recalled some people saying that Deputy Hazen was struck first. *(See Tab - J For Official Transcript)*

#### **Adriana Mendoza**

On April 28, 2014, Detective Oliveira conducted a sworn video recorded interview with Adriana Mendoza at the Port Orange Police Department. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Mendoza was the passenger of the vehicle driven by Ms. Carlson as they traveled to Amscot located in the Dunlawton Square Plaza. According to Ms. Mendoza, as they were entering the turn lane on Nova Road, a black truck driven by Deputy Hazen cut them off as it entered their lane. Ms. Carlson honked the horn a couple times as Deputy Hazen started to "brake check" them. As the two vehicles entered the parking lot the black truck came to a stop and Deputy Hazen exited holding what appeared to be a badge. Deputy Hazen was at the driver side window of Ms. Carlson's vehicle yelling at the girls not to mess with him. Deputy Hazen then returned to his truck and pulled into the parking lot. Ms. Carlson followed behind and turned north to find a parking space.

After coming out of Amscot, Ms. Carlson was on her cell phone with her mother who advised her to get Deputy Hazen's license plate and notify police. As the two girls approached the black truck, Deputy Hazen got out and started yelling profanities at them. According to Ms. Mendoza, she and Ms. Carlson began walking away from Deputy Hazen traveling north along the plaza's overhang trying to ignore him. Deputy Hazen continued to follow still yelling profanities until he was side by side with Ms. Carlson in front of the Space Coast Credit Union (SCCU).

Ms. Carlson then put her hands on Deputy Hazen's chest and pushed him away. Ms. Mendoza explained, Deputy Hazen then stepped back and took a full swing striking Ms. Carlson on the left side of the face with his right fist.

Detective Oliveira showed Ms. Mendoza the pictures taken of the security footage at SCCU which showed Deputy Hazen walking in front of the two girls. Ms. Mendoza could not recall how he got in front of the two of them. (*See Tab – G For Official Transcript*)

### **Hannah Carlson**

On April 28, 2014, Detective Olivera conducted a sworn recorded video interview with Hannah Carlson at the Port Orange Police Department. Ms. Carlson's mother, Domonique Carlson was also present for the interview since she was a juvenile. The following is a summary of that interview:

Ms. Carlson was driving her mother's car south on Nova Road on her way to Amscot which was located in the Dunlawton Square Plaza. Seated in the front passenger seat was Ms. Mendoza and Ms. Carlson's sister, Marcy Dalrynple, was in the back seat. Ms. Carlson explained, as she approached the turn lane to enter the shopping plaza, a black truck driven by Deputy Hazen, cut her off. Ms. Carlson had to hit her brakes in order to not hit Deputy Hazen so she hit the horn.

As Ms. Carlson turned into the shopping plaza with Deputy Hazen directly in front, she described how Deputy Hazen continually hit the brakes in front of her causing her to stop short so she hit the horn again. When both vehicles were in the plaza, Deputy Hazen stopped in front of her and exited his vehicle. Ms. Carlson said he walked towards her open window holding what appeared to be a wallet displaying a badge; however, he never identified himself as a deputy. Deputy Hazen was in her car window as he called her stupid and said, "*Want a piece of me bitch.*" Ms. Carlson responded by saying, "*Please get out of my window,*" as she began to put up the window. As Deputy Hazen started to walk back to his truck she pulled around and proceeded to find a parking space.

Ms. Carlson called her mother and advised her of the situation as they entered Amscot. Ms. Carlson said she was told by her mother to try and get the truck's license plate and to notify the police based on his actions.

Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza decided to find Deputy Hazen's truck so they left Amscot leaving Ms. Dalrynple behind. The two walked south through the parking lot to locate Deputy Hazen's truck. As they approached the truck, they started taking pictures; however, they were unaware that Deputy Hazen was inside. Ms. Carlson said Deputy Hazen got out of the truck and confronted them screaming and telling the girls they were sluts and whores. At that point Ms. Carlson began to walk away and she pulled Ms. Mendoza away since Deputy Hazen was closest to her. Ms. Carlson said that the police report indicated that they followed Deputy Hazen, she stated that, "*...was not true...he followed us.*"

Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza began walking north under the plaza overhang as Deputy Hazen followed behind screaming at them. Ms. Carlson said she just wanted to get away from Deputy Hazen. At one point, while they were attempting to get away, Deputy Hazen got up face to face with her. According to Ms. Carlson, he was spitting in her face as he yelled. Ms. Carlson described how Deputy Hazen reeked like alcohol as he continued to yell in her face. Since Deputy Hazen was in her face, she pushed him on his chest with her open hand to get him away. Deputy Hazen stepped back and struck her in the face with his right hand. Ms. Carlson said she was bent over holding her mouth as she started bleeding. At that point she could hear people starting to yell at Deputy Hazen as she ran north towards Salsa's holding her mouth.

Ms. Carlson's said she also sustained scratches to her neck area as a result of being pushed at some point as she was bent over holding her mouth. She said POPD never took pictures of the scratches but her mother did later that evening.

The following day after the incident, Ms. Carlson had a headache and her face was still numb so she went to the emergency room. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The injury did not cause permanent disability or permanent disfigurement. Copies of the medical reports were supplied by Ms. Carlson's mother to Detective Oliveira.

Detective Oliveira showed Ms. Carlson pictures taken from the security video at Space Coast Credit Union (SCCU), which is located in the south end of the plaza. After reviewing the picture of Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza following Deputy Hazen north away from his truck, she remembered he must have walked past them. Originally Ms. Carlson was adamant in both her written statement and interview that she was trying to get away from Deputy Hazen and that she was in fear of him as he followed her screaming using profanity. *(See Tab - E For Official Transcript, See Tab - O For Photographs and Copies Of Medical Records)*

#### **Dr. Regina Gresham**

On May 1, 2014, Detective Oliveira conducted a sworn recorded interview with Dr. Regina Gresham at the Port Orange Police Department in Port Orange. The following is a summary of that interview:

Dr. Gresham was the passenger in Deputy Hazen's truck on April 22, 2014, as they drove to Salsa's Mexican Restaurant to meet friends for dinner. Dr. Gresham recalled Ms. Carlson's car being very close to Deputy Hazen's rear bumper as they navigated through the heavy traffic. As the two vehicles entered the plaza Ms. Carlson was laying on the vehicle's horn, Deputy Hazen stopped his truck and exited with his law enforcement badge to speak with Ms. Carlson. Dr. Gresham could hear the girls inside the car yelling at Deputy Hazen as he approached their car saying, "...old man pervert...what the fuck

are you doing?" Dr. Gresham could then hear Deputy Hazen identify himself as a law enforcement officer as he told the girls, "You need to chill...calm down." All the while, the passenger in the car, Ms. Mendoza, was continually, "Throwing the F bomb. You old fucking pervert. You old pervert. What's your fucking problem?" As Deputy Hazen walked back to his truck, the girls drove around and Ms. Mendoza was, "...flipping us off [middle finger]...and then she starts spitting...and screaming at him [Deputy Hazen] again you old fucking pervert, you need to die. I hope you die." The situation scared Dr. Gresham, even after Deputy Hazen identified himself as a law enforcement officer the girls continued with their disrespectful behavior.

After the girls drove away, Deputy Hazen dropped off Dr. Gresham in front of Salsa's and then parked the truck. When Deputy Hazen arrived at Salsa's, they both went inside and sat with friends. Dr. Gresham was given a box from one of her friends and Deputy Hazen decided to take it to his truck. A few minutes went by and Dr. Gresham felt uneasy about the earlier situation and left her party to check on Deputy Hazen. As she exited Salsa's, she immediately saw Ms. Mendoza, the passenger of the car. Ms. Mendoza screamed at her saying, "That's the bitch that was with him...He's a wife beater...He hit my friend." She also observed Ms. Carlson holding her mouth. Deputy Hazen was then seen sitting down talking on his cell phone to who she believed were the police.

As Dr. Gresham approached Deputy Hazen, Ms. Carlson's mother arrived and began yelling and screaming at her. The mother was yelling, "I bet he [Deputy Hazen] is beating your ass every morning and night huh...I bet he is, just like he's beating my daughter...." Dr. Gresham said she was so loud and disrespectful that the Port Orange Police Officer told the mother that if she did not calm down, he was going to arrest her.

According to Dr. Gresham, Deputy Hazen remembered being struck on the back of the head which he reacted by hitting Ms. Carlson. Deputy Hazen was unaware of Ms. Carlson's age at the time and he was upset over the whole situation. (See Tab – K For Official Transcript)

On May 6, 2014, POPD filed a charging affidavit with the State Attorney's Office for simple battery against Ms. Carlson and Deputy Hazen. (See Tab – D For POPD Reports)

### **Deputy Brian Hazen**

On June 17, 2014, Investigator Bennett and Sergeant Tom Tatum conducted a sworn recorded interview with Deputy Brian Hazen at the Sheriff's Office administrative offices in Deland, Fl. Present for the interview, representing Deputy Hazen, was attorney Aaron Delgado.



Deputy Hazen has been a law enforcement officer since 1980. He spent approximately twenty-five years with the Daytona Beach Police Department where he achieved the rank of Sergeant. Deputy Hazen has been a deputy sheriff for the past seven years where he has been assigned to Judicial Services as a bailiff.

On Tuesday, April 22, 2014, Deputy Hazen was off-duty traveling with his girlfriend, Dr. Gresham, in his black Ford pick-up truck to Salsa's Mexican Restaurant (Salsa's) located in the Dunlawton Square Plaza in Port Orange. They were traveling east on Dunlawton Avenue as they approached the intersection of Nova Road. Deputy Hazen made a right turn and began traveling south on Nova Road. Deputy Hazen, perceiving there was sufficient room, began to merge left into the left turn lane on Nova Road to enter the Dunlawton Square Plaza. As he merged, traffic was backing up from the traffic light ahead of him causing him to brake. As he stopped he could hear the horn from the vehicle behind blowing continuously. As he looked into his rearview mirror he could see hand motions from the occupants, later identified as Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza. Deputy Hazen then motioned to the occupants that traffic had stopped in front of him and he had nowhere to go.

Deputy Hazen denied "brake checking" Ms. Carlson. He described the traffic as heavy causing him to drive slow and stop at the traffic light. Deputy Hazen's truck was a full size Ford F-150, which according to Deputy Hazen, may have blocked Ms. Carlson's view of traffic ahead of him.

When the traffic light cycled, he had the green arrow so he proceeded to accelerate making a left turn into Dunlawton Square Plaza. As he turned he said the vehicle behind began to blow its horn. When he looked into the rearview mirror he was unable to see the front bumper of the vehicle since it was so close to his rear bumper.

As the two vehicles entered the plaza parking lot, Deputy Hazen stopped, grabbed his Sheriff's Office credentials, got out of his truck and approached the vehicle behind him. Deputy Hazen said he never reached the driver side window of the vehicle as he identified himself as a law enforcement officer. When Deputy Hazen presented his Sheriff's Office badge and identification card, he stated that it was clearly visible. While he was near the front of Ms. Carlson's vehicle he told the girls, "*...I don't know what your problem is? Or what, what's going on, but chill out or relax.*" That was when one of the girls called him, "*...an old pervert and they kept saying take his picture, take his picture,*" as they laughed. Deputy Hazen had no clue why the girls were calling him an old pervert. He also said that he never asked Ms. Carlson if she, "wanted a piece of me bitch," saying that was not his personal style.

Deputy Hazen presented his Sheriff's Office credentials in hopes, "*...that it would reduce their anxiety, and calm them down whatever they perceived that I did to them.*" Deputy

Hazen described the girl's behavior as incredibly rude and disrespectful as they did not care that he was a law enforcement officer.

Deputy Hazen was shown a series of three photographs taken by Ms. Mendoza as she sat in the passenger seat of the vehicle. Deputy Hazen identified himself in the photographs and he can be seen in all three photographs standing near the driver side of the vehicle. Deputy Hazen denied ever going up to the driver side window of the vehicle, as Ms. Carlson claimed he did.

As Deputy Hazen walked back to his truck, he recalled the passenger, Ms. Mendoza, giving him the finger and yelling obscenities as they drove past. Deputy Hazen was later told by Dr. Gresham that one of the girls spit on him as they drove past; however, he did not see it, nor did he feel it. Deputy Hazen got back into his truck as he saw the girls drive away turning north in the parking lot.

Deputy Hazen went about his business believing the incident had concluded. He pulled forward dropping off Dr. Gresham in front of Salsa's as he pulled away looking for a parking spot. Deputy Hazen parked his truck at the far southern end of the parking lot next to Space Coast Credit Union (SCCU) and walked back north to Salsa's.

Deputy Hazen went into Salsa's with his friends and they sat together in the rear of the restaurant. While they were there, Dr. Gresham took possession of a package that was given to her by a friend. The package was too big and it continued to get into Deputy Hazen's way so he decided to take it to his truck. As Deputy Hazen exited the restaurant he did not see Ms. Carlson or Ms. Mendoza nor was he looking for them.

When he exited Salsa's, he turned left and walked south under the plaza's overhang towards his truck. A security camera from an ATM located at the SCCU captured footage of Deputy Hazen walking with the package. Deputy Hazen was shown a still photograph of the security video and he identified himself as the person depicted in the photograph carrying the package. The next photograph, taken from the same ATM security footage several seconds later shows Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza walking south through the parking lot. Deputy Hazen identified the two girls as the driver and passenger of the vehicle he encountered. Deputy Hazen believed he was possibly at his truck dropping off the package at the time indicated on the photograph from the security video.

Deputy Hazen entered the driver side door of his truck, which placed him in plain view of the parking area to the north. After he placed the package in the truck he closed and locked the door. As he turned to walk north back to Salsa's, he saw the two girls walking towards him from the parking lot. At that point one of the girls said to get a picture of him and his license plate as Deputy Hazen asked what there problem was. That was when the girls, "*...launch into this barrage of obscenities calling me, including the old*


*pervert and, and Mm-hmmm, motherfucker and, and I mean just a tirade of obscenities.*" Deputy Hazen was shocked to see the girls coming towards him, he thought the incident was over and he became concerned based on their attitude and actions.

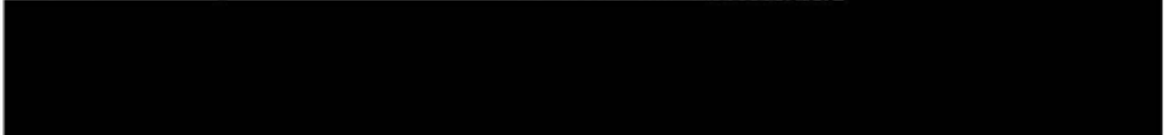
According to Deputy Hazen, the girls never attempted to walk away nor did they ever tell him to leave them alone. He described the girls actions as, *"This, this, this was an offensive attack by them. There was never any retreat. There was never any backing down."* Deputy Hazen, knowing it wasn't a good situation, began to walk away towards Salsa's under the plaza overhang. According to Deputy Hazen, he never followed the girls in any shape or form.

Deputy Hazen was shown a photograph taken from the security video at the SCCU. The photograph was of him walking alone north under the plaza overhang at 18:19:52 hours. The second photograph showed a time of 18:19:53 hours with the girls directly behind him, Deputy Hazen commented, *"I'm trying to walk away from them."* While they walked north, Deputy Hazen said, *"They never stopped giggling, laughing and, and throwing all kinds of obscenities at me."* Deputy Hazen said he was never behind or side by side with the girls as they walked north along the overhang.

After he walked past the SCCU, Deputy Hazen said he was punched on the base of his skull. Deputy Hazen said he was not facing the girls when he was punched; he was walking away from them as it showed in the photos. After he was punched in the neck area, he turned and faced the two girls; Ms. Carlson was then in front of him and Ms. Mendoza off to his left. Deputy Hazen had no idea the verbal altercation would turn physical, and he stated, *"As a matter of fact I was trying to avoid that [physical altercation]."*

Deputy Hazen described how after he was punched in the neck area he intentionally delivered what he called a reactionary strike to Ms. Carlson's mouth. As he struck Ms. Carlson, he recalled telling her not to hit him. Deputy Hazen described it as, *"...a reactionary strike to gain distance between her and I."* He said he did not use a closed fist; he demonstrated for Investigator Bennett how he closed his knuckles slightly leaving his palm open, utilizing his fingers as the striking surface. Deputy Hazen struck Ms. Carlson once; however, he could not recall if that strike hit her on her nose as well as the mouth. Deputy Hazen sustained a small laceration to his right index finger which he received as a result of striking one of her teeth. After he struck her, Ms. Carlson immediately ran north towards Salsa's.

Deputy Hazen produced documentation from his radiologist. 



[REDACTED] so the actual area in which I was struck by her was the area that I already have an injury to."

Deputy Hazen described the impact of Ms. Carlson's punch as a sharp, tingling sensation [REDACTED] and, "...given the surprise factor that I was struck, the injury to my neck compounded the impact." [REDACTED]

After the altercation, Deputy Hazen sat in a chair under the overhang and dialed 911 to notify POPD and the Sheriff's Office of the incident. Deputy Hazen notified the communications center that he needed a Sheriff's Office supervisor to respond. Deputy Hazen stated that he did not ask for any special treatment from POPD, he just advised them that he was a deputy sheriff and he was armed with his off-duty firearm.

When the POPD officers arrived he provided a statement and completed a Refusal to Prosecute against Ms. Carlson. Based on the POPD officers initial investigation, Ms. Carlson was determined to be the primary aggressor. The following day Deputy Hazen went to the POPD and filed an Intent to Prosecute against Ms. Carlson.

During their interviews with POPD, Ms. Carlson and Ms. Mendoza both stated that Deputy Hazen smelled of an alcoholic beverage which he denied. At the conclusion of the interview, Deputy Hazen pointed to and identified the area on his neck at the base of his skull where he was struck by Ms. Carlson. Deputy Hazen also demonstrated how he held his right hand when he struck Ms. Carlson. Photographs were taken and submitted as part of this report. *(See Tab – N For Official Transcript)*

When questioned, Deputy Hazen had the following response as to whether he felt he violated the following policies:

**Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (13).** Any conduct, on or off duty that reflects unfavorably on the County as an employer. *This violation may be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action ranging from oral reprimand to dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the offense and other circumstances related to the situation.* No

**CONCLUSION:**

On June 8, 2014, this investigation was presented to the Sheriff and his administrative staff. After review, the Sheriff determined the violations of the below listed Department Standards Directive to be:

**Volusia County Merit System Rules and Regulations 86-453 (13) – Unfounded**

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Report Of Investigation
- B. Official Correspondence
- C. Advisement Administration Of Oath/Perjury Warning/Garrity Warning
- D. Copies of Police Reports and Written Statements
- E. Copies of Official Transcripts of Hannah Carlson
- F. Copies of Official Transcripts of Suzanne Sattler
- G. Copies of Official Transcripts of Adriana Mendoza
- H. Copies of Official Transcripts of Peter Ferriera
- I. Copies of Official Transcripts of Sandra DiNitto
- J. Copies of Official Transcripts of Pamela Fuit
- K. Copies of Official Transcripts of Dr. Regina Gresham
- L. Copies of Official Transcripts of 911 Call
- M. Copies of Official Transcripts of Deputy Hazen Interview With POPD
- N. Copies of Official Transcripts of Deputy Hazen Interview With IA
- O. Miscellaneous Documents
- P. Digital Media

**WITNESSES:**

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585-613-5385

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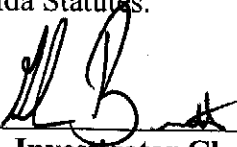
Pamela Fuit  
855 Pine Forest Trail West  
Port Orange, FL 32124  
386-290-1766

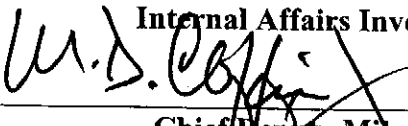
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I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under the penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the suspect of the investigation of any rights contained in ss. 112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.

INVESTIGATOR:  DATE: 7/10/14  
**Investigator Glen Bennett**  
**Internal Affairs Investigator**

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 7/10/14  
**Chief Deputy Mike Coffin**  
**SHERIFF BEN F. JOHNSON**  
**VOLUSIA COUNTY FLORIDA**